

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01

NEA-10 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 OPR-02 SCA-01 MC-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 AGR-20 SCS-03 /239 W  
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R 062010Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6840

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

COMCARIBSEAFRON

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 0416

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GJ, PINS, PINT

SUBJ: GRENADA NEGOTIATING PURCHASE OF OIL FROM VENEZUELA

REF: BTN 398

SUMMARY

GOG SAID TO BE FINALIZING ARRANGEMENTS FOR PURCHASE OF FUEL  
FROM VENEZUELA TO OVERCOME EMBARGO ON SHIPMENTS FROM TRINIDAD.

NO INDICATION OF BREAK IN GRENADA PORT STRIKE. CIVIL SERVANTS  
INITIATE "GO SLOW" TO PROTEST DELAYED SALARY PAYMENTS.

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FURTHER UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF VIOLENCE IN GRENADA. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESS REPORTS TEXACO AND ESSO MANAGERS IN GRENADA SAY ISLAND'S FUEL SUPPLIES NOW EXHAUSTED, THREATENING RESUMED SHUTDOWN OF ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE SERVICES WHICH WERE RESTORED ON LIMITED BASIS TWO WEEKS AGO. HOWEVER, GEORGE GRIFFITH OF GRENADA EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE TOLD POLOFF MARCH 6 THAT GOG PRESENTLY FINALIZING ARRANGEMENTS FOR PURCHASE OF FUEL FROM VENEZUELA. GRIFFITH ACCOMPANIED FINANCE MINISTER GEORGE HOSTEN TO CARACAS IN MID-JANUARY, WHEN VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS AGREED TO SUPPLY FUEL ON CASH-ON-DELIVERY BASIS. GOG EFFORTS TO PERSUADE ESSO, TEXACO, AND COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (CDC), WHICH OWNS AND OPERATES GRENADA ELECTRICITY PLANT, TO PAY PORTION OF COST OF VENEZUELAN FUEL WERE INTERRUPTED BY JAN 21 CLASH AND RIOTING AND WERE NOT RESUMED UNTIL AFTER INDEPENDENCE. ACCORDING TO GRIFFITH, THREE COMPANIES HAVE NOW AGREED TO PAY AMOUNT EQUAL TO WHAT THEY WOULD HAVE PAID FOR SIMILAR SHIPMENT FROM TRINIDAD. SINCE VENEZUELAN OIL MORE EXPENSIVE THAN THAT FROM TRINIDAD, GOG WILL HAVE TO PAY DIFFERENCE, WHICH COULD EXCEED 75 PERCENT OF TOTAL COST. GRIFFITH ESTIMATES INITIAL SHIPMENT WILL BE 55,000 GALS AT COST OF EC\$200,000. (COMMENT: THIS WOULD PLACE WHOLESALE COST AT EC\$ 3.65/GAL, WHICH SEEMS EXCESSIVE SINCE GASOLINE NOW RETAILED IN BARBADOS AND OTHER ISLANDS AT EC\$ 1.46/GAL.)

2. GRIFFITH'S PRIMARY PURPOSE IN VISITING BARBADOS WAS TO ARRANGE ONWARD SHIPPING OF THREE CRATES OF NEW GRENADA PASSPORTS, WHICH WERE CONFISCATED ALONG WITH NINE CRATES SMALL ARMS BY BARBADOS CUSTOMS OFFICIALS LAST WEEK. GRIFFITH SAID THERE WAS NO TRUTH IN PRESS SPECULATION THAT ARMS BEING IMPORTED FOR GOG. HE SAID GUNS, MOSTLY OF SMALL CALIBER, HAD BEEN ORDERED BY LICENSED GRENADA GUN IMPORTER FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA LAST MARCH AND THAT IMPORTER HAD REQUESTED AIR SHIPMENT FROM ST LUCIA SINCE GRENADA PORT STILL CLOSED. BECAUSE OF CONFUSION CREATED BY ARMS SHIPMENT, LIAT AIRLINES HAS INDICATED IT WILL NO LONGER HANDLE ANY AIR CARGO BOUND FOR GRENADA.

3. MEANWHILE, SEAMEN AND WATERFRONT WORKERS' UNION HAS GIVEN  
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NO INDICATION IT INTENDS TO END ITS SHUTDOWN OF GRENADA PORT, NOW ENTERING ITS THIRD MONTH. EARLIER THIS WEEK BANANA AND NUTMEG WORKERS THREATENED TO PICKET HOME OF SWWU GEN SEC ERIC PIERRE BUT CALLED OFF PROTEST FOLLOWING APPEAL FROM GOG. (ACCORDING TO GRIFFITH, GOG FEARED PICKETING MIGHT ERRUPT IN VIOLENCE AND THAT ANY HARM DONE TO PIERRE MIGHT CAUSE UNIONS IN NEIGHBORING ISLANDS TO STRENGTHEN AND PROLONG EMBARGO OF GRENADA-BOUND GOODS.) CARIBBEAN CONGRESS OF LABOR

(CCL) SECRETARY TREASURER BURNS BONADIE, WHO ARRIVED BARBADOS FROM TRINIDAD MARCH 4, TOLD POLOFF HE BELIEVES OILFIELD WORKERS' TRADE UNION (OWTU) AND OTHER TRINIDAD UNIONS PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SWWU TO ENABLE LATTER TO CONTINUE ITS STRIKE. BONADIE ALSO BELIEVES OWTU GENSEC GEORGE WEEKS, WHO IS CLOSE FRIEND OF PIERRE AND WHO HARBORS PERSONAL GRUDGE AGAINST GAIRY, STRONGLY ENCOURAGING PIERRE TO CONTINUE STRIKE AND PREPARED TO CONTINUE OIL EMBARGO INDEFINITELY, PARTICULARLY SINCE NO REAL PRESSURE BEING APPLIED AGAINST HIM TO LIFT IT.

4. CIVIL SERVANTS AND PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN GRENADA HAVE REPORTEDLY INITIATED "GO SLOW" TO PROTEST DELAYS IN SALARY PAYMENTS. SOME CIVIL SERVANTS WERE PAID JANUARY SALARIES IN MID-FEBRUARY, BUT MANY RECEIVED ONLY HALF PAY, AND OTHERS CLAIM THEY WERE NOT PAID AT ALL. ACCORDING TO GRIFFITH, FINANCE MINISTER HOSTEN AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY LAURISTON WILSON RETURNED FROM LONDON FEB 27, APPARENTLY WITH NO FIRM ASSURANCE THAT HMG WOULD GIVE GOG ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MEET SALARIES AND OTHER RECURRENT EXPENDITURES. HOSTEN NEVERTHELESS ANNOUNCED IN RECENT RADIO BROADCAST THAT CIVIL SERVANTS WOULD SOON RECEIVE FEBRUARY SALARIES.

5. UNDETAILED AND UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF VIOLENCE CONTINUE TO EMMANATE FROM GRENADA. SIX POLICE AIDES WERE REPORTEDLY INJURED IN CLASH WITH REGULAR POLICE IN GRENVILLE OVER THE WEEKEND, AND ARSON SUSPECTED IN FIRE WHICH DESTROYED THREE BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS IN GOUYAVE NIGHT OF MARCH 3. OFFICIAL FROM CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION WHO JUST RETURNED FROM GRENADA REPORTS THERE STILL HAVE BEEN NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING OR IMMEDIATE THREATS TO FOREIGN RESIDENTS. BARBADOS MEDIA GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO INTERVIEW MARCH 5 WITH GRENADA REFUGEE ALBERT RENNIE, NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT SYMPATHIZER WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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NARROWLY ESCAPED DEATH AT HANDS OF POLICE AND POLICE AIDES LAST NOVEMBER 20. RENNIE CLAIMS HE WAS ATTACKED BY ARMED POLICE AIDES NEAR SAUTEURS AND WAS LATER BEATEN, SLASHED AND LEFT FOR DEAD IN LOCAL POLICE STATION. REVEALING NUMEROUS SCARS ON HIS BODY, RENNIE EXPLAINED HOW HE EVENTUALLY ESCAPED BY BOAT TO TRINIDAD WHERE RELIGIOUS GROUPS ARRANGED HIS PASSAGE TO CANADA FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. RENNIE SAID HE WAS NOTIFIED FEB 28 THAT HIS 18-MONTH OLD SON HAD BEEN KILLED IN FIRE THAT DESTROYED HIS HOME AND THAT HE BELIEVES FIRE WAS DELIBERATELY SET BY GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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